Shortage of Sim Cards in Bihar

†447. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of shortage of SIM cards in every telecommunication district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the measrues being taken to meet this shortage; and

(c) by when the mobile SIM cards would be easily available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The SIM cards are available in sufficient quantities with the Bihar Telecom Circle. However, release of Pre-paid SIM cards to the field units have been controlled due to capacity constraints and to provide good quality of service to the customers. However, Post-paid cellular connections (SIM Cards) are available on demand.

(b) and (c) BSNL is in the process of expanding the cellular network in Bihar by a capacity of 4.5 lakhs lines which is likely to be available progressively from September, 2005 onwards and pre-paid cellular connections are expected to be released commensurate with the availability of capacities.

Implementation of Food for Work Programme

†448. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for constitution of a monitoring group in Planning Commission for monitoring and proper implementation of 'Food for Work' programme being run in the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The principal responsibility for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

monitoring and proper implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) is that of the concerned Ministry/Department. The nodal Ministry responsible for monitoring and implementing the National Food for Work Programme is the Ministry of Rual Development. However, the Planning Commission has put in place a Programme Outcome and Response Monitoring Division to help in designing appropriate systems for measuring the physical outcome of major programmes/schemes, including *inter-alia* the Food for Work Programme.

Clearance to Development Schemes

†449. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government is not giving clearance to the development schemes made by State Governments for years and only correspondence is done again and again;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such situation makes adverse effect on development resulting funds remaining unused and schemes not completed in time bound manner; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to tackle this situation, so that, country could progress rapidly and the funds do not remain unsued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The development schemes of the States, being part of their Annual Plans, do not require clearance of the Union Government for implementation/execution.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Meeting of NDC

450. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-day meeting of the National Development Council was held recently to review the state of the economy

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